

DP-308658 (DEL01 P-451)

**AN AUTOMOTIVE IGNITION SYSTEM WITH
SPARKLESS THERMAL OVERLOAD PROTECTION**

Abstract of the Disclosure

An interface for providing thermal overload protection includes a switching device, a temperature indicating device, a drive circuit and a thermal monitoring circuit. The thermal monitoring circuit is coupled across the temperature indicating device and provides a shutdown signal to the drive circuit when the temperature of the switching device is above a predetermined temperature level as indicated by a temperature signal provided by the temperature indicating device. The drive circuit responds to the shutdown signal by removing current sources and current sinks from a control terminal of the switching device at which point leakage currents cause the switching device to reduce a drive current to an inductive load.